

## Covenant Day Greeting\_February2019

Sun 2/17/2019 8:20 PM

**From:** "srisabel@schsrsmaty.org"

**To:** srisabel@schoenstattdc.org

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## Covenant Day Greeting February 18, 2019



Dear Schoenstatt Families,

May the graces of covenant loyalty and perseverance in everyday life fill your hearts this day!

When we pray the Rosary, we usually begin by asking for the virtues of faith, hope, and love, and the graces of faithfulness and perseverance until death. What does it mean to pray for the grace of faithfulness and perseverance? Isn't that what we pray for when we renew our covenant of love with the MTA? We usually pray "My Queen, My Mother" with longing in our hearts. If only we would remain loyal and steadfast to our promise of love and persevere in bringing our requests of love to Mary, without fear, like children! Let us reflect on how our motto, our father and founder, and our branch help us remain faithful to our covenant of love in daily life.

### **Our Year's Motto**

*Like Father, dare to offer ourselves for the Church*, admonishes us—moves us to embrace our commitment in a deeper way. Most probably, today we will set aside some time to come closer to the picture of our MTA in the shrine, in our Home Shrine, in our heart shrine, or wherever we may be, to renew our bond with Mary. With the fire of our longing to offer ourselves for the Church, we discover how our motto *is* a resolution. It takes courage; it takes perseverance to embrace the challenge of offering ourselves for the Church! Everyday

anew, we tell ourselves to dare to offer the sacrifices connected to the routine of our ordinary lives, to the hidden, ordinary frame in which the small history of our lives unfolds. This takes a courageous daring spirit!

### **Our Father and Founder**

In working with the American couples, here in Milwaukee, Father Kentenich was very well aware of this truth. Among other things, he encouraged them to be *heroic today!* He gave them some helpful hints. His words are very timely, in view of the upcoming season of Lent. He said:

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Now when we go home we may think about a personal resolution for Lent. Do not make too many resolutions. Remember the well-known statement: He who chases after many rabbits gets none. It is far better to chase *one* and be a successful hunter.

Some people say that they could do something great for one day, but not for forty days. Therefore, we should say, *heroic today!* Keep only one day in mind! It is very important to live only for today, but in union with God. This is everyday sanctity.

Are we ready to take the challenge that Father Kentenich places before us? He, so to say, reveals the secret to remain faithful and steadfast in our covenant of love. We just have to renew this covenant today, for this day, and bring our contributions to the capital of grace just for today, that is, the trials, frustrations, joys, and miracles of *this* day.

### **Our Branch of the Schoenstatt Families**

As part of the Schoenstatt Movement, we are called to offer the richness of the education we have received as Schoenstatt Families to the Church. We know how much our relatives, our parish communities, and those we work with need the peace that comes from seeing God's hand behind all events! When we made the covenant as Schoenstatt Families we prayed about being educated and formed into lay apostles in the spirit of the Church and of Schoenstatt. In other words, we are here to strive to lead an exemplary Christian life, especially through the sacrament of Matrimony, so that we can embody—to an extent—the greatness of Catholicism today. But, this greatness starts with very small things: proving our love for Mary, staying connected to our group and branch, frequent apostolate within our own families and the Schoenstatt Family, as well as through the unseen deeds of self-education we take on in everyday life.

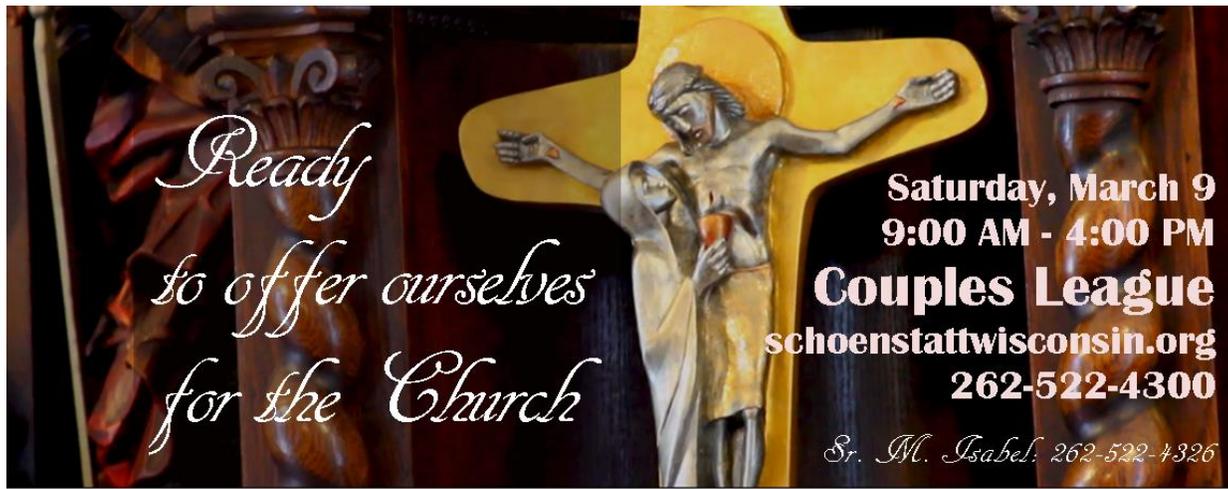
A few practical points may help us find concrete ways in which we can live up to the challenge of our motto.

- One is to identify one specific point from the resolutions we have taken in the past. It might have to do with patience in conversations with our spouse or with the children, in practicing better communication skills with my loved ones, in being more flexible or more firm in decision making, and so on.
- Second, take your covenant prayer and see where you are at today, as a couple, growing in the Schoenstatt spirituality. Let the MTA guide your thoughts!
- Lastly, point to make good use of the opportunity for the next Schoenstatt deep Lenten retreat being offered for Schoenstatt couples at the Schoenstatt Center. This will be on Saturday, March 9, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. We will have talks, time for private dialogue as a couple inspired by the epochs our founder's life, the heroes' lives, and the Kingdoms of the Home Song. We will end the day with the renewal of the covenant and our dedication as part of the Schoenstatt Families. Make sure you bring your covenant candle!

Wishing you a richly blessed 18<sup>th</sup> of the month, and praying that the MTA sends you special graces,

*Sr. M. Isabel*





**Attachments:**

- Schoenstatt Movement.png
- Lenten Retreat for couples\_March2019\_ad.jpg